

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 causing a first device to establish a connection with a
 - 3 second device, enabling a data transaction between the first
 - 4 device and the second device;
 - 5 determining if a time-related event has occurred since
 - 6 establishing the connection between the first device and the
 - 7 second device;
 - 8 terminating the connection between the first device and
 - 9 the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the
 - 10 time-related event; and
 - 11 reestablishing a connection between the first device and
 - 12 the second device, enabling another data transaction.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the time-related
- 2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.
- 3 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising setting a
- 4 timer when the connection is established between the first
- 5 device and the second device.
- 6 4. The method of claim 3 in which determining if the
- 7 time-related event has occurred includes determining if the
- 8 timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the

4 connection was established between the first device and the
5 second device.

1 5. The method of claim 1 in which the data transaction
2 includes determining if the second device has data available
3 for transmission across a network to the first device and if
4 data is available, transmitting the data to the first device.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising, if data is
2 not available, terminating the connection between the first
3 device and the second device.

4 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting
that the second device complete the data transaction before
determining if the time-related event has occurred since
establishing the connection between the first device and the
second device.

2 8. The method of claim 7 in which requesting that the
2 second device complete the data transaction includes
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the
2 time-related event has not occurred, determining if the second
3 device has data available for transmission to the first
4 device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 establishing a connection across a network between the first
3 device and the second device.

1 11. An article comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable
3 instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

4 cause a first device to establish a connection with
5 a second device, enabling a data transaction with the second
6 device;

7 determine if a time-related event has occurred since
8 establishing the connection between the first device and the
9 second device;

10 terminate the connection between the first device
11 and the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the
12 time-related event; and

13 reestablish a connection between the first device
14 and the second device, enabling another data transaction.

1 12. The article of claim 11 in which the time-related
2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1 13. The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to
2 set a timer when the connection is established between the
3 first device and the second device.

1 14. The article of claim 13 in which determining if the
2 time-related event has occurred includes determining if the
3 timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the
4 connection was established between the first device and the
5 second device.

1 15. The article of claim 11 in which the data
2 transaction includes determining if the second device has data
3 available for transmission across a network to the first
4 device and if data is available, transmitting the data to the
5 first device.

1 16. The article of claim 15 further causing a machine
2 to, if data is not available, terminate the connection between
3 the first device and the second device.

1 17. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to
2 request that the second device complete the data transaction
3 before determining if the time-related event has occurred
4 since establishing the connection between the first device and
5 the second device.

1 18. The article of claim 11 in which requesting that the
2 second device complete the data transaction includes
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1 19. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine
2 to, if the time-related event has not occurred, determine if
3 the second device has data available for transmission to the
4 first device.

1 20. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to
2 establish a connection across a network between the first
3 device and the second device.

1 21. An apparatus comprising:
2 a first device configured to connect to a network;
3 an application accessible by the first device and
4 configured to communicate with a second device configured to
5 connect to the network; and
6 a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured
7 to, after the first device completes a data-related
8 transaction with the second device across the network,
9 determine if a time-related event has occurred since the first
10 device established a connection with the second device and if
11 so, trigger the termination of the connection.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the time-related
2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is
2 also configured to start a timer when the first device

establishes a connection with the second device and to check the timer to determine if the time-related event has occurred since the first device established the connection with the second device.

24. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is also configured to trigger establishment of a new connection between the first device and the second device after the connection is terminated.

25. A system comprising:

- a server device configured to connect to a network and to store data;
- a client device configured to connect to the network and to retrieve data stored at the server device; and
- a mechanism accessible by the client device and configured to, after the client device has retrieved data stored at the server device, determine if a time-related event has occurred since the client device established a connection with the server device and if so, trigger the termination of the connection.

26. The system of claim 25 in which the data includes an electronic mail message.

1 27. The system of claim 25 in which the network includes
2 the Internet.

1 28. The system of claim 25 further comprising a
2 mechanism accessible by the server device and configured to,
3 after the connection is terminated, delete the data retrieved
4 by the client device.

1 29. The system of claim 25 in which the mechanism
2 accessible by the client device is also configured to trigger
3 establishment of a new connection between the client device
4 and the server device after the connection is terminated.